



SWARC NEWS

Meeting Notes

SWARC 4 MAY 2020 MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order on-the-air at 7:00 pm by President Mike Gaither, K4MWG. We were once again social distancing as hams do by holding our meeting via radio from the comfort of our homes.

Those checking in as present were: K7RLH, KK4BK, K4MWG, NW3U, KK4QDZ, KN4OEY, KD4MC, KJ4CVK, WA4TCJ, KI4LO, N4RL, K4MSE, AND KA0GMY.

President Mike reminded everyone that we still have raffle tickets for members to sell; he is hoping that we will be able to meet at the AL Post in June, but it all hinges on restrictions being removed or lessened.

Field Day was discussed, but nothing definite can be planned yet for the same reason(s).

Dave Yow, K4MSE, Nominating Committee Chair, presented a slate of nominees for club officer positions. We have at least one person stepping up for each elected position. His report is as follows:

President – KK4BK, Brian Knox

V. President – K7RLH, Richard Hall

Sec'y – KN4JJU, Andy McDaniel

Treas. – KJ4AEO, Christine Fernandini

Membership – NC4RA, Ryan Avery

Mbr-at-Lge – WA4TCJ, Al Crawford

Mbr-at-Lge – N4BAJ, Bernie Jones

President Mike asked if there were any nominations from the floor and the silence was overwhelming. Dave Yow then moved that all current officers should continue to serve until we can have the required in-person meeting in June or later, as required by the club by-laws. Mike Callam seconded and the motion carried.

President Mike stated that the financial position had not changed since we have not been meeting and all bills have been paid. He also noted that membership renewals will begin in July and that we may keep the current radio room door code for an extended period due to current restrictions.

Steve Mowels, KA0GMY, mentioned that Nancy Avery recently had a stroke and is now at home. VP Brian Knox was asked to get some flowers and a card for her from the club. Steve also indicated that he would like to continue publishing the club newsletter, but said that he would reach out to Brian Knox

or Richard Hall if he needed help due to health concerns. We are very thankful for his efforts.

Our second social distancing meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

73, Richard Hall – K7RLH – Secretary

South Wake Amateur Radio Club Treasurer Report February 2020

Club Addition and Reduction Activity

Additions

Dues	15.00	check# 3180	John Poplawski (WB4UFO)
Dues	30.00	check# 2605	Stanley Johnson (W4SFI)
Dues	20.00	check# 9908	Kenneth (N1VK) and Ann (W1AAN) Person
Dues	30.00	check# 8469	Travis Russell (KN4WJL)

Total

Additions 95.00

Reductions

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Total

Reductions 0.00

RBC Bank Account Activity

Balance as of	1458.34		
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02/03/2020			
Addition	95.00		
Reduction	0.00		

Balance as of
03/02/2020 1553.34

Christine Fernandini
KJ4AEO 03/02/2020

No update received yet

MEMBERSHIP

Just a reminder that it is coming up on time to pay membership dues.

\$30 for individual and \$5 for each family member.

You can bring a check or cash to the meeting Monday October 7th or mail them to the club PO box and Christy will let me know she has received them so I can update the list. If you mail them, give me a heads up so I can mark it as pending on the roster.

Makes checks payable to South Wake ARC.

If you are going to mail it, send it to South Wake ARC – PO Box 1565 – Fuquay Varina, NC 27526

I have taken over as Membership Director from Ryan, so please direct any questions to me.

I will be developing an online form so new members can fill out the application online and mail or bring a check to a meeting.

I will be reaching out to all members here soon to make sure I have the latest contact information, addresses, etc so I can make sure the membership list reflects current information.

Thanks

David Sosnin

N4TTN

n4ttn.radio@gmail.com

NET REPORT

Call-signs with more than 10 check-in's

KK4QDZ	50
WA3JJG	39
KM4ARS	37
N4BAJ	37
KD4MC	36
K7RLH	32
N1VK	28
W1AAN	26
KJ4WLG	26
WB4UFO	26
K4VJC	25
KE5OLM	25
KN4OEY	24
N2UHI	21
KE4QBW	19
KO4BZB	19
AB4PP	15
KK4BK	14
KK4QEE	13
KK4UGY	12
WA4TCJ	12
KJ4CVK	11
K4ZXX	11
AK4XZ	10

Daily Check-in counts (both nets)

4/30/20	15
4/29/20	13
4/28/20	16
4/27/20	31
4/26/20	24
4/25/20	16
4/24/20	23

4/23/20	33
4/22/20	35
4/21/20	45
4/20/20	38
4/19/20	31
4/18/20	23
4/17/20	25
4/16/20	37
4/15/20	37
4/14/20	44
4/13/20	35
4/12/20	22
4/11/20	46
4/10/20	17
4/9/20	12
4/8/20	56
4/7/20	60
4/6/20	70
4/5/20	9
4/4/20	49
4/3/20	24
4/2/20	39
4/1/20	37

Public Service

Check the RARS web site often for Public Service opportunities.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Appointed Positions

President

Mike Gaither – K4MWG

Vice President

Brian Knox – KK4BK

Secretary

Rich Hall, K7RLH

Treasurer

Christy Fernandini - KJ4AEO

Member-At-Large

Al Crawford – WA4TCJ

Member-At-Large

Charles Bruckner – KG4MXV

Member-At-Large

Dan Gilbertson

Membership Chair

David Sossin – N4TTN

NET MANAGER

Joe - KM4YTF

Special Events Director

Gino Fernandini – KI4YXO

Public Service Director

David Krum – NW3U

SWARC Mission Statement

South Wake ARC's primary purpose is to further the Amateur Radio Service through programs, activities, and education, in order to promote the radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency of our members. Further, it shall be our purpose to support the welfare of our community through public service including radio communications for emergency situations and public events, and through providing information, training, and assistance to individuals or organizations with an interest in the Amateur Radio Service.

LINKS (if you have other links you want added then send them to me)

PRN

A Wide Area Digital Amateur Radio Network www.ncprn.net

GigaParts www.gigaparts.com

QRZ www.qrz.com

Ham Radio Outlet HRO www.hamradio.com

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society RARS www.rars.org

Johnson Amateur Radio Society JARS www.jars..net

South Wake Amateur Radio Club SWARC www.southwakearc.com

Vice President Notes

The Spring Raffle is two, \$250 Gift Cards enabling you to buy what you want. See K4MWG or KK4BK for tickets. Others will be recruited to sales duties soon.

Good Read: <https://www.onallbands.com/beyond-your-local-repeater-15-things-to-do-with-a-technician-license/>

There are events going on all the time: you got Islands on the Air (IOTA), and then there is working Light Houses, don't forget all the special events there is something new each week. Here is one for you Mark, N4MQU is always setting up and working from different locations or likes to run different nets as the net control. See how many times you can work Mark in his different rolls during the week. If nothing else take your radio to the backyard and work some stations. Just have fun.

Field Day should be happening. Check with Brian KK4BK concerning details and ways you can help. Every year after this event I hear a group saying how they would do something different. Well now is the chance to make your improvements. Let KK4BK know you want to help this way we can talk about you after the event.

ATTENTION

Our club is like other clubs we have a mixture of memberships. We have everything from young pre-teen members to those like myself who were active during the Civil War. Anyway the point I am trying to make is us younger guys need to be checking in on our older members to see if they could use any help. I know several have reached out to me and I do appreciate it. I want to thank Brian, KK4BK Mike, K4MWG David, KN4OFB Thomas, WW4TLB. These are just a few who have reached out to me on a weekly basis and offered help so I thank you all but please don't forget the others. I know they don't like to admit it but just to name a few of our older members there is Al, WA4TCJ Bernie, N4BAJ Richard, K7RLH (who is also as old as I am) The point is please check in on the older or disabled members of the club and see if you can help and do not necessarily take no for an answer. Sometimes the no is because we do not want to bother someone with such a small task or just do not feel right imposing on someone. I am repeating this statement from the last newsletter as I feel strongly about it but let's look at the other end of the hobby. How many times have you welcomed someone to the hobby and then forgot about them. How about from now on we say hey welcome to the hobby and if I can help out let me know and then later do a follow up and make sure they were doing okay. It can make a difference to someone enjoying the hobby or not. Who did you check on this week?

Planning Your ARRL Field Day 2020 Operation

05/14/2020

For most of us, ARRL **Field Day** 2020 is going to look quite different than it did in past years. Considering the impact of social distancing due to the pandemic, many radio clubs and large groups will not gather in their usual Field Day locations this year. Whether you are a seasoned veteran or a Field Day first-timer, there are many questions about how to participate in amateur radio's largest annual on-air event under these unusual circumstances. Here are some tips and suggestions to help you plan this year's operation.

Don't Forget 6 Meters

Remember, Field Day is a non-adjudicated operating event and not a "full speed ahead" contest. It is also not an HF-only event. All amateur radio bands above 50 MHz may be used during the event too.

This includes 6 meters, which often offers significant propagation enhancements in the summer months around Field Day weekend, to help you make contacts. The band is available to amateurs holding a Technician-class license or higher. If you have an HF/VHF/UHF multi-mode transceiver, try making SSB, CW, or digital contacts on 6 meters. You don't need fancy beams or large antenna arrays. A simple vertical or dipole will allow you to experience operating on the "Magic Band."

Activities for Techs

One suggestion for clubs to consider in order to increase participation among their Technician-class members is to schedule specific times where these club members will monitor designated VHF and UHF simplex frequencies for Field Day activity. Keep in mind that the published national FM simplex calling frequencies should be avoided, and the use of repeaters is prohibited for Field Day contacts. This way, members who have equipment capable of VHF/UHF-only operation may be able to participate from their homes or vehicles. Your club can choose a list of frequencies and scheduled times in advance, and publish them in the club newsletter, or via email or other electronic means before the start of the event.

On the HF bands, Technician-class licensees have CW privileges on 80, 40, and 15 meters, as well as RTTY/data and SSB phone privileges on 10 meters. If you aren't a CW operator, try calling CQ on 10-meter SSB in the late afternoon and early evening on Saturday and see if conditions are favorable for long-distance communications. Try experimenting with a simple wire antenna for 10 meters. You might discover that the band can offer plenty of unexpected propagation.

Get Set Up for Digital Modes

You might want to explore one of the newer FT4/FT8 digital modes on 10 meters, 6 meters, or even the VHF/UHF bands. These modes offer an opportunity to make weak-signal contacts when band conditions often do not support voice communication. There have been reports of some great 6-meter openings in recent weeks, and these are likely to occur more frequently as the summer months approach. If you've never experimented with digital modes, perhaps this year is an opportunity to give them a try.

Setup is relatively straightforward. You'll need a computer and a digital interface to connect the radio to the computer, and you'll need to download one of the digital mode software packages such as the free **WSJT-X** suite, which incorporates FT8 and FT4. Many modern transceivers have built-in support for digital modes, so in those cases, all you'll need is the proper cable to connect the radio to the computer's USB port. You'll need software that supports the ARRL Field Day exchange (**WSJT-X** version 2.0 or later, for example). ARRL's book ***Get on the Air with HF Digital (2nd Edition)*** is also a great primer for anyone beginning to explore the digital modes.

The Excitement of Ham Satellites

Another area you might wish to explore is operating via one of the amateur radio satellites, or "birds," as they're often called. Many hams have had success making contacts via the FM satellites by using

a VHF/UHF handheld radio and a small handheld directional antenna, or a multi-mode VHF/UHF transceiver for the linear (SSB and CW) satellites. You'll only be able to work the satellites when they are overhead, so you'll need to know when they will be visible at your operating location. Visit AMSAT's [Online Satellite Pass Prediction](#) page to see which ones will be orbiting overhead, and at what times they'll be visible. You can find many satellite operating tips and resources on the [AMSAT website](#) too.

An Opportunity for Learning

ARRL Field Day 2020 may be the year you decide to participate solo, or with other members of your household. You may want to focus on expanding your knowledge base and experiment with new modes or bands that you never thought of using before. If you're a mentor to a newer ham, Field Day can be an opportunity to share some of your knowledge, and for *you* to expand your own operating horizons. This might be the year to leave your Field Day comfort zone and try something new!

HuskySat-1 (HO-107) Transponder is Open

05/14/2020

The transponder on **HuskySat-1**, now designated as HuskySat-OSCAR 107 (HO-107), has been activated and is open for use and testing, AMSAT Vice President – Operations Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, reports.

"It's fairly sensitive, and 5 – 10 W is plenty most of the time. There are some fades due to satellite orientation, and some passes are definitely better than others. Strong signals may impact the beacon strength."

HuskySat-1 is the first CubeSat from the Husky Satellite Lab at the University of Washington and the first mission with AMSAT's linear transponder module (LTM-1), a V/u transponder and integrated telemetry beacon and command receiver. University researchers recently completed their Part 5 (Experimental) operations and have opened up the amateur radio transponder, which is available for use in educational CubeSat missions that are willing to enable the transponder for worldwide use.

The HuskySat-1 V/u transponder is inverting, with an uplink passband of 145.910 – 145.940 MHz, and a downlink passband of 435.810 – 435.840 MHz. The 1200-baud BPSK telemetry beacon is at 435.800 MHz.

Amateur Radio Gearing Up for Predicted "Above Average" Atlantic Hurricane Season

05/14/2020

Extended-range forecasts for the 2020 Atlantic Basin hurricane season anticipate above-normal activity, although **a low-pressure system** now off the coast of Florida could get a jump on things and develop into a subtropical depression or storm this weekend. The Atlantic hurricane season doesn't start until June 1 and extends until November 30. The National Hurricane Center (**NHC**) 2020 outlook calls for a season about 140% more active than average, with four Category 3 to Category 5 hurricanes. The 2019 season saw three major hurricanes (out of six).

"The above-average prediction is largely due to the hot Atlantic and Caribbean waters and lack of a substantial El Niño in the Pacific," the NHC explained, noting that the combination of a busy hurricane season and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic could create a nightmare scenario for affected areas. FEMA and local emergency management agencies are already issuing COVID-19 guidelines for hurricane shelters, which include face masks and social distancing.

The NHC Annual Station Test — to check readiness of amateur radio stations and operators — takes place on Saturday, May 30, 1300 – 2100 UTC. The NHC's **WX4NHC** will be on the air, marking its 40th year of public service at the NHC. Julio Ripoll, WD4R, the Assistant Amateur Radio Coordinator at the NHC, said the event offers an opportunity for radio amateurs worldwide to exercise the sorts of communications available during severe weather. “We will be making brief contacts on many frequencies and modes, exchanging signal reports and basic weather data — sunny, rain, temperature, etc.) with any station in any location,” Ripoll said. Operation will be on HF, VHF, UHF, APRS, and Winlink. WX4NHC will center its activity on the Hurricane Watch Net (**HWN**) frequencies of 14.325 MHz and 7.268 MHz, depending on propagation, but will operate elsewhere as conditions dictate. WX4NHC will also operate on the **VoIP Hurricane Net** from 2000 until 2100 UTC.

“I must say, I’m not liking what I’m seeing.” — *Hurricane Watch Net Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV*

Dr. Philip J. Klotzbach *et al* of the Colorado State University (CSU) Department of Atmospheric Science cite a variety of factors that led them to conclude this hurricane season could get serious. Pointing to the “somewhat above normal” tropical Atlantic sea-surface temperatures, the scientists estimate “about eight hurricanes,” four of them major, during the 2020 season.

“We anticipate an above-average probability for major hurricanes making landfall along the continental United States coastline and in the Caribbean,” the CSU forecast states, reminding coastal residents that it only takes one hurricane making landfall to make it an active season for them. The CSU scientists set the probability of US major hurricane landfalls this year at about 130% of the long-period average.

“I must say, I’m not liking what I’m seeing,” reacted Hurricane Watch Net Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, pointing to additional extended forecasts posted by Tropical Storm Risk (TSR), the University of Arizona, and North Carolina State University. The TSR forecast calls for three major hurricanes, while the University of Arizona and North Carolina State predict between three and five major hurricanes.

“Since 2014, the Hurricane Watch Net has been very busy,” Graves told ARRL. “We’ve had 20 net activations for 19 hurricanes and one tropical storm. Since 2015, we’ve worked nine major land-falling hurricanes, including four land-falling Category 5 storms.” As examples, he ticked off some now-well-known hurricane names: Joaquin (2015); Matthew (2016); Harvey, Irma, and Maria (2017); Michael (2018), and Dorian (2019). Graves notes that the past three hurricane seasons saw at least one Category 5 hurricane make landfall.

In its **report** on Hurricane Dorian, the NHC noted, “Surface observations from the Caribbean weather stations and data received from ham radio operators and local observers were included in the analysis of Dorian.”

Graves pointed out that the past six hurricane seasons not only were busy and historic but very deadly, and he’s hoping the 2020 hurricane season will not turn in a repeat performance.

